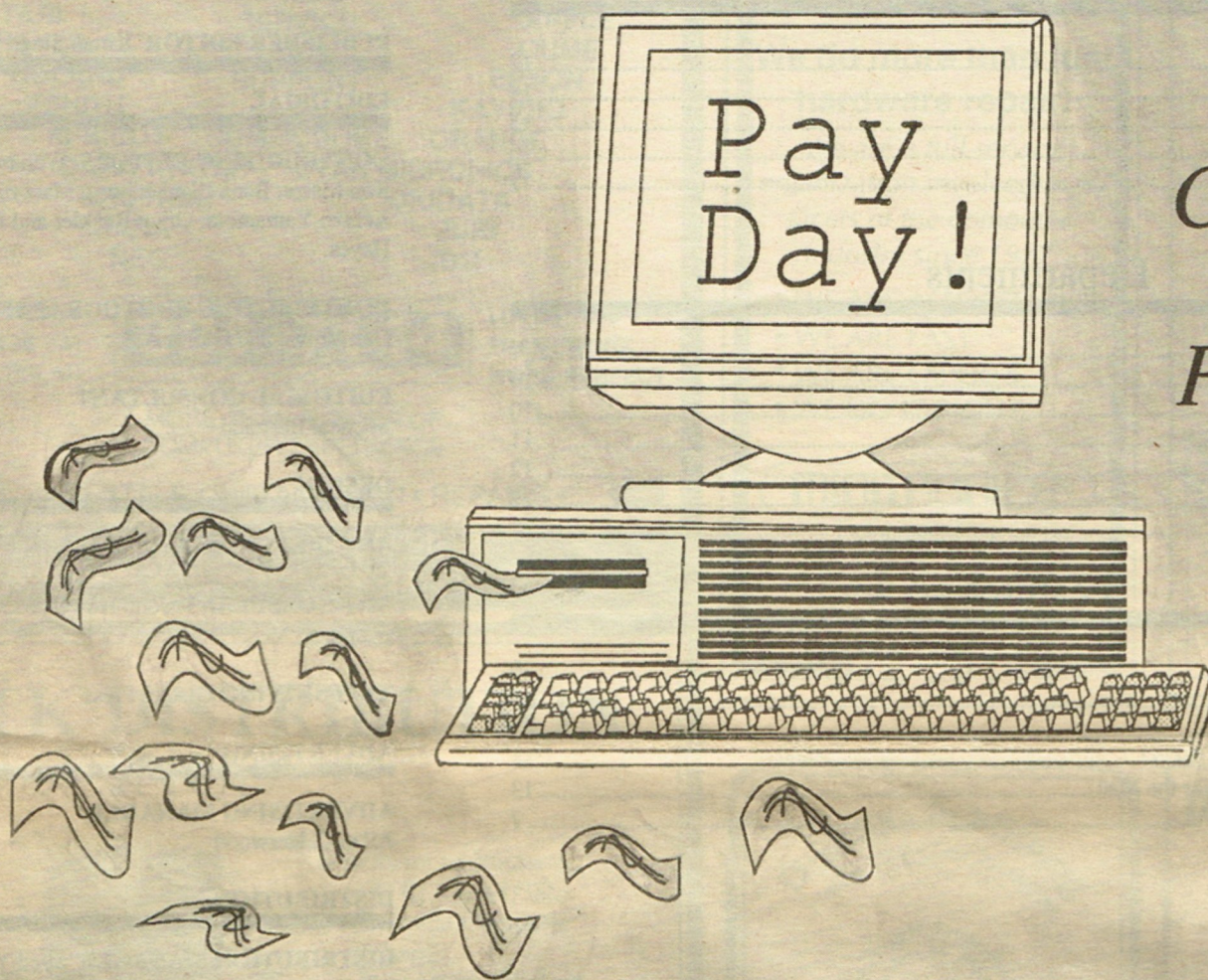


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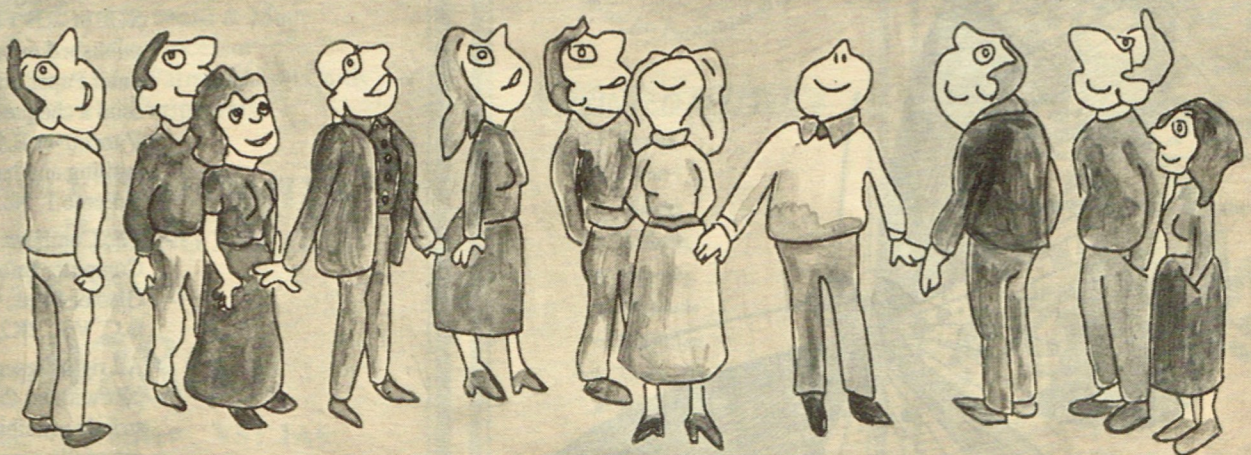
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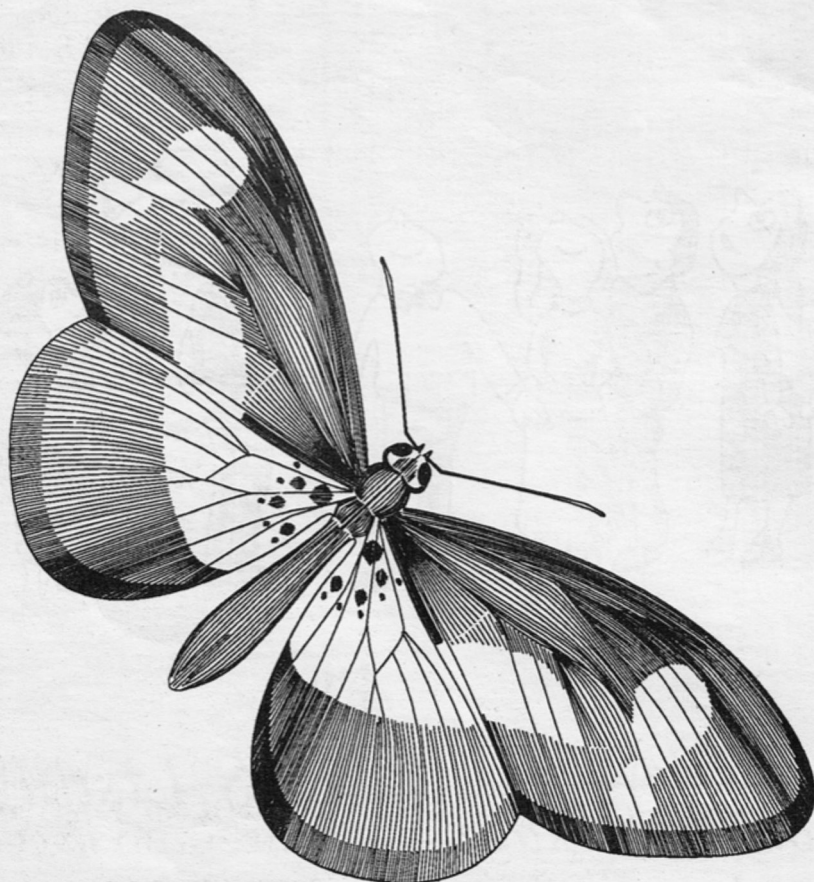
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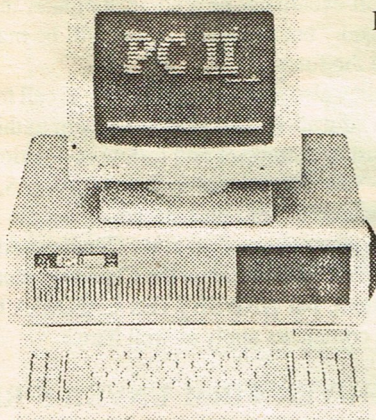
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CONTROL DATA DOWNGRADES CANADIAN OPERATION

MISSISSAUGA, Ont. (NB) — Control Data Canada Ltd. has laid off 45 employees and shifted most responsibility for Canadian operations to its U.S. parent. Former chairman and president T.S. Allan and former senior vice-president of sales and marketing Gary Glover have retired. Rather than replacing them, Control Data Canada has announced that the vice-presidents in charge of its five business units will form a "senior management team" for the Canadian operation but that each business unit will report directly to the parent company in Minneapolis. Averell Elliott, vice-president of computer systems and services, will "assume responsibilities for day-to-day corporate operations at Control Data Canada," the company said in a press release.

CONTACT: CONTROL DATA CANADA, LTD., 1855 Minnesota Court, Mississauga, Ont. L5N 1K7, (416) 826-8640

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OTTAWA (NB) — Frantek Computer Products Inc. has dropped plans to list its stock on the Vancouver Stock Exchange and might seek a listing on the Toronto Stock Exchange instead, CANADIAN COMPUTER DEALER NEWS reports. The paper quotes Mike Anderson, president of Frantek, as saying the company wants to look for a larger financial market than Vancouver. He said a listing on the Toronto exchange, Canada's largest, is possible within the next 12 months. Anderson also says the company wants to remain 100 per cent Canadian, a trait it has emphasized in the past.

PROVINCE GIVES TECHNOLOGY GRANTS

TORONTO (NB) — The Province of Ontario has announced C\$24.1 million in grants from its Premier's Council Technology Fund. They will go to three Ontario companies working on airborne radar, analytical instruments and computer-aided design. The projects are all being funded through a new industrial research and development fund set up as part of the C\$1 billion technology fund. American Standard of Toronto will get C\$3.8 million to help develop an automated factory in co-operation with IBM Canada Ltd., Markham, Ont., Spar Aerospace Ltd. and Canadian General Electric Ltd. of Toronto, the University of Toronto, McMaster University in Hamilton, Ont., and the University of Western Ontario in London. Canadian Astronautics Ltd. of Ottawa will get C\$2.48 million to develop radar for reconnaissance work, and Sciex, a division of MDS Health Group Ltd. of Toronto, will get C\$17 million to develop analytic instruments for measuring trace amounts of industrial chemicals.

IBM LAB CELEBRATES 20TH AN- NIVERSARY

TORONTO (NB) — IBM Canada Ltd.'s Toronto development laboratory celebrated its 20th anniversary at the beginning of December. The third largest private-sector laboratory in Canada and the fourth-largest software lab in IBM worldwide, the

Toronto facility has grown rapidly in recent years to about 1,100 employees. Bjorn Anderson, director of the laboratory, said the lab's responsibilities include software development for IBM's mid-range systems, image systems, and programming language standards for IBM worldwide.

SCULLEY SPECULATES ON FUTURE AT BOOK LAUNCH

TORONTO (NB) — Book-sized computers that talk, take telephone messages and can retrieve information from remote systems without specific instructions from the user may be commonplace by the early 21st century. But even then, there may be no real market for home computers. So said John Sculley, chairman of Apple Computer Inc., at the Canadian launch of his book "Odyssey: Pepsi to Apple," on Nov. 23. Sculley's Canadian publisher, Fitzhenry and Whiteside of Toronto, invited an assortment of Apple dealers, journalists and other guests to Toronto's King Edward Hotel for a luncheon that marked the Apple chairman's first visit to Canada since his Pepsi-Cola days. As part of his after-lunch speech, Sculley showed a short video depicting his view of a possible computer of the future, much like the Dynabook concept pioneered at Xerox Corp.'s Palo Alto Research Centre. Sculley pointed out that his hypothetical machine used no technologies that don't exist today, although most of them are experimental at present. He said new technologies usually need an incubation period of about 15 years. Sculley also confirmed that Apple is moving away from home computers, a market he thinks is largely illusory at present. All that exists today is a "home-business" market in which people use computers at home so they can bring work home from the office, he said. "There will eventually be a home computer market," he said, "but my sense is that will be many years into the future."

Sculley also took the opportunity to call for a change in education. Students must learn to think and not just to memorize and follow instructions, he said. "Our educational system in the U.S. is largely focused toward training young people for the early industrial age," he said. (Sculley added that he couldn't comment on the Canadian educational system, but NEWSBYTES CANADA believes his comments apply as well here.)

VANCOUVER FIRM UNVEILS RE- PORT WRITER FOR LOTUS 1-2-3, DBASE

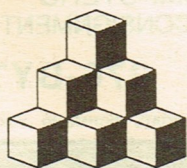
VANCOUVER (NB) — Krieger Data Corp. of Vancouver has introduced ProMark IQ, which produces reports from files created by Lotus 1-2-3, dBase III and Krieger's own ProMark database software. David Galloway, senior marketing representative for the firm, said the package is adapted, under license, from software developed by a U.S. firm. It can extract data from 1-2-3 and dBase files to produce reports with summary totals and perform "all kinds of calculations" on the data. ProMark IQ can also produce graphs, Galloway said.

continued on page 13

NEWSBYTES Canadian bureau chief is Grant Buckler, Source ID IP2008, voice (416) 285-0644, or 859 Kennedy Rd., #203, Scarborough, Ontario, Canada M1K 2E3.

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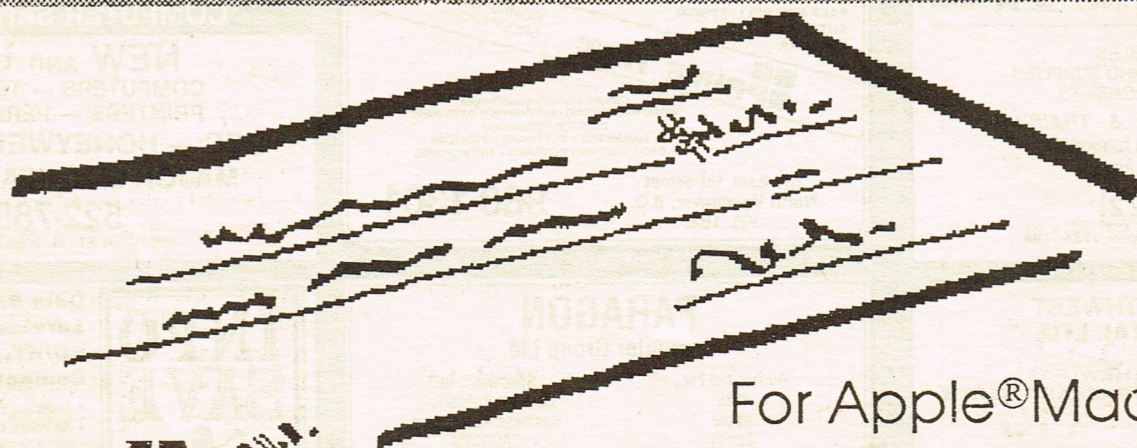
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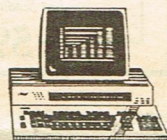
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PayMaster Canadian Payroll Software

by Bill Hayes

Is it worthwhile to put your company payroll on a personal computer? Yes and no. It depends. The *PayMaster* program by Etc. Software does a good job of speeding up the data entry and tedious table look-up portion of payroll processing. It's the process of getting that information back into your existing bookkeeping system that puts the utility of this program into question. Let's have a look at what the program does well first.

System Requirements

The program runs on IBM PC or compatible machines with a minimum of 256K of memory. The program comes on one disk. It is possible according to Etc. to run up to 75 employees on a one disk system, 75 to 250 on a dual floppy system, and 250 to 999 on a hard disk.

Set-up Routine

The system set up is a simple menu driven procedure run through a file called Housekeeping. It is here you decide whether to initialize the system on one, two or a hard drive. The short manual (32 pages + appendix) included in the package does a good job of taking you through the initial routine.

Creating a Company

The initial bootup takes you to the main menu window. You are advised as a first step to create a new company name file so that the T-4's which it prints at the end of the year have that information on them.

Security

You can also at this stage set up four level password protection. Level 1 has access to all functions. Level 2 can change everything but the company name and the Security functions. Level 3 is allowed access to the Department, Job, Historical, Cheque and Print files. Level 4 is only allowed to access Department, Job and Historical files. Passwords can be up to 8 letters, but once you start to use passwords, every time you enter the program, you will be required to enter your password.

Windows

The program makes intelligent use of windows to assist in data handling. For example when you are in the cheque writing file, as you toggle through the fields, a window box will pop up to show your options for such things as employee numbers or Job Costing categories. Another window pops up everytime you enter the Employee, Cheque, Department, Job Costing or Historical files. Then you are given the option to Add, Update or Delete to the file.

Employee Files

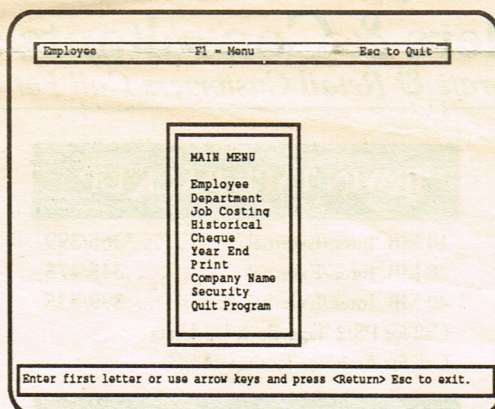
The next step is to enter employees into the program. This process is greatly facilitated if you have everyone's Tax Exemption forms up to date.

A few potential problem area in entry occur here. The first I encountered was in entering Vacation Pay rate. The field is defined with a number and three figures after the decimal. A four percent

deduction would then look like: 4.000. This approach I found somewhat less than intuitive and managed to enter a .04 rate which resulted in .04% rate rather than 4%.

A second potentially confusing area I discovered was in defining the ending period of employment. Dates are formatted as MMDDYY. The program uses a code of "010101" to define employees who are still working for you. Since the majority of employees who you are taking the time to enter into your new payroll program are likely to be still employed by you, it would have speeded up data entry to have the program default to this value except in those rare cases you are entering an employee who has already left. Again it's all in the manual, but the best judge of a program is often how far you can go *without* looking at the manual.

The third problem I encountered was in defining the claim amount. Here the program differed slightly from the manual. The manual shows a screen with the word "Claim". The program in fact says "TD1 Claim" which to me suggested that I



Start up Screen

should enter the code used by the government to define the different categories. This idea is reinforced by the next field "TPDIV Claim" (again not in the manual) which is a computed field. The suggestion by this layout is that all one need enter is the government defined classifications, and the program will fill in the next field. In fact it doesn't work that way. It turns out that you are supposed to enter the actual claim amount in the "TD1 Claim" field. Surprisingly, nothing shows up in the "TPDIV Claim" field. One wonders why it is there at all. All this became clearer after reading the appendix of the manual. Another hint was given by the format shown in the message bar at the bottom of the screen when you enter the "TD1 Claim" field which is (XXXX.XX).

Of course all these problems were minor, and nothing that a quick perusal of the manual couldn't solve, but nonetheless could stand to be improved.

Departments Vs. Job Costing

This is where for me the program fell down the most. The company for which I intended to set the

program up has multiple departments and employees who sometimes contribute hours to these different departments. *PayMaster* does not handle this situation well. A call to the company confirmed this fact. The option they suggested, was to not use Departments at all, instead use the Job Costing file to divide up the labour. This suggestion has only limited applicability, because the reporting from the Job Costing is only very rudimentary. It does not break down the amounts between wages and the various benefits such as UIC, CPP etc.

This brings me to my final and major complaint against *PayMaster*. The reports *PayMaster* generates seem more geared to getting me to purchase my cheques from Etc. Software than to providing accessible information. Etc. Software says that you have three options with the program. 1) use their pre-printed cheques and report sheets which means buying a whole other series of cheques and entering the adjustments directly in the General Ledger, 2) print out on plain paper, and transfer the information to another accounts payable system, 3) get Etc. to customize the system at a rate of \$25/hour to include the report labels. The first option of buying from Etc. is really the only choice that is reasonable if you want to use this program. This of course is the ideal for them, but may not be so for your company. The second option doesn't really work because of the way the program prints out just raw numbers with out any header information (it's on the pre-printed forms you see). The report ends up with a closely grouped bundle of numbers with no labels to help sort out what is what. The third option of engaging in contract programming does not seem reasonable for a program designed to inexpensively save time and money.

A Bug?

In the process of discovering about the difference between the Department and Job Costing approach to breaking out payroll, I discovered a bug in the program. I first entered a number of Departments, then I decided to delete them all and use the Job Costing approach. When I moved the cursor into the Job Costing area while entering a Cheque, instead of the Job Costing category window appearing, I got lines of code on the screen. I had to re-initialize the system to get rid of this problem losing the data I had entered in up to that point.

Additional features

The program allows you to either pay holiday pay in each pay period, or accumulate it til a specified date. The way to then get it out, is to enter the Employee file, choose Update and then change the Retain item to Y. The program then will include the accumulated holiday pay up to and including the current pay period.

PayMaster also can handle advances and the

continued on page 14

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